

CLINICAL NUTRITIONIST

JOB TITLE: Clinical Nutritionist

GRADE: 18

JOB CODE: 2504

DATE: 11/8/95

GENERAL FUNCTION: Under administrative direction of the Director of the health department or other appropriate supervisor provides moderate to complex nutrition case management of medically high risk individuals requiring physician-prescribed dietary and nutrition regimens and intensive counseling and conducts educational programs for the community based on needs assessment.

CHARACTERISTIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Provides nutrition services to clients with significant nutrition problems, such as planning individual diets for clients with multiple conditions and conflicting dietary restrictions according to program standards and protocols.

Maintains appropriate records of nutrition services rendered and ensures that all nutrition services provided are properly documented.

Assesses training needs, develops training materials and conducts training sessions. Evaluates the effectiveness of in-service training programs and prepares reports of training activities.

Plans and coordinates in-service training programs in nutrition for subordinate staff and other health care personnel.

Provides consultation and assistance on nutritional matters to a variety of community agencies such as local heart and diabetes associations, hospitals, schools, agricultural extension services. Explains nutrition services offered by the health department, coordinates these services with others in the community, identifies gaps and duplications in services, and makes adjustments as necessary.

Writes newspaper articles and public service announcements about proper nutrition and available nutrition programs; lectures to school and community groups, and public and private agencies with an interest in or need for nutrition services.

Maintains current knowledge of changes in regulations and informs appropriate personnel, agencies and organizations of changes. Reviews and implements state and district level policies, standards and guidelines concerning nutrition services. Interprets state and federal regulations pertaining to the nutrition component of various health programs to subordinate staff, other health care personnel, nursing homes, day care centers and other local health care agencies.

JOB TITLE: Clinical Nutritionist (Continued)

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SUPERVISION RECEIVED: General direction, working from broad goals and policies only; incumbent participates heavily in setting work objectives.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED: May serve in the capacity of working supervisor or lead person for nutritionist or supportive staff.

JOB SPECIFICATIONS:

Knowledge and Abilities:

Considerable knowledge of the normal and special nutritional requirements of the client population of the assigned area or program; of the signs and symptoms of improper nutrition; of the methods of planning diets for clients with multiple physical conditions and conflicting dietary requirements.

Good knowledge of the therapeutic effects of proper nutrition for clients with conditions such as hypertension and diabetes; of the criteria for identifying a client at nutritional risk and factors used to determine eligibility for participation in federally funded programs; of federal, state, and district policies, procedures and regulations pertaining to the provision of community nutrition services.

Some knowledge of the methods of developing in-service training and community education programs; of supervisory techniques effective with professional and para-professional staff; of the methods of program evaluation.

Considerable skill in assessing the nutritional status of individuals of various ages; in planning diets for individuals with various health problems.

Working skill in interviewing and counseling clients with nutrition problems; in making oral presentations to groups; in writing reports of nutrition program activities and informational and training materials, and in maintaining records of nutrition services rendered.

Considerable ability to provide nutrition education and counseling to individual clients, groups of clients and groups of citizens; to maintain current knowledge of federal, state, and district policies, procedures, and regulations applicable to the area of assignment.

Working ability to plan and coordinate nutrition services at the local level; to develop and conduct in-service training programs; to evaluate the performance of individual staff members and counsel them accordingly; to identify gaps and duplications in services and take appropriate action.

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Minimum Education, Training, and Experience Requirements: Bachelors degree from an accredited college or university and be a licensed dietitian (L.D.) by the Kentucky State Board of Licensure and Certification as provided in KRS 310.021 or be a Certified Nutritionist (C.N.) by the Kentucky State Board of Licensure and Certification as provided in KRS 310.031.

The intent of this job description is to provide a representative summary of duties and responsibilities that will be required of positions given this title and shall not be construed as a declaration of the specific duties and responsibilities of any particular position. Employees may be requested to perform job-related tasks other than those specifically presented in this description.